



Paraprofessional Schools Week

Date: 01/21/2022

To: School Leaders

From: Heather Mueller, Ed.D., Commissioner

RE: Paraprofessional Recognition Week, 2022

The week of January 24–30, 2022 is Paraprofessional Recognition Week.

Paraprofessionals have stepped up in so many ways during the pandemic—supporting school-age care, assisting with virtual learning, helping deliver meals for students and more. We are grateful for their commitment to meeting the needs of our students, families, and communities. Our school communities would not be the same without them.

During Paraprofessional Recognition Week, we celebrate the contributions of paraprofessionals. Schools have wonderful ways to celebrate their paraprofessionals. Below are some examples of strategies schools use to celebrate:

- “Welcome to Paraprofessional Recognition Week!” messages sent via email to kick off the week.
- Highlight paraprofessionals in the school and/or district newsletter.
- Ask teachers/colleagues to provide “shout outs” highlighting individual paraprofessionals’ contributions.
- Hang a sign on doors saluting the paraprofessional who works there.
- Award each paraprofessional with priority parking for a day or a week.
- Ask a local radio station to air public-service announcements publicizing paraprofessional recognition week. Script the spots and record them yourself or have students record them.
- Acknowledge paraprofessionals in the agenda or outset of meetings.
- Have students, teachers, and administrators make appreciation signs and display them at a virtual meeting or in shared spaces and hallways in the school building.
- Have students or staff produce a musical/video tribute to share electronically.
- Have students write or record “thank you’s” to the paraprofessionals that work with them.
- Car parades, yard signs, or hand delivering treats, cards, notes, etc.